THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SIXTH SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.

Tuesday, 23rd February 1954.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Merger of the Prohibition department with the Police department.

*1 *Q*.—SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to reduce the strength of the present Ministry consequent on the merger of the Prohibition department with the Police department?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The merger of Executive departments has not much to do with Cabinet strength. There is no such proposal being considered."

SRI M. DHARMALIGAM :—" வேலை அதிகரித்து இருக்கிற கல்வி இலாகாவிலுள்ள ஆசிரியர்களை குறைப்பது மட்டும் ரொம்பவும் நியாயமானதா என்று நான் கேட்கிறேன். நம் ராஜ்யத்தை விட்டு 11 ஆந்திர ஜில்லாக்கள் பிரிந்து போனதன் காரணமாக மந்திரி சபையின் பொறுப்பு ரொம்பவும் குறைந்து இருக்கிறது. அப்படியிருந்தும் மந்திரி சபையின் எண்ணிக்கையை என் அதிகரித்தார்கள் என்று எனக்குத் தெரியவில்லை. தற்போது மதுவிலக்கு இலாக்காவின் வேலையை போலீஸ் இலாக்காவிற்கு மாற்றிவிட்டதாலும், போலீஸ் இலாக்கா திறமையும் அனுபவமும் மிக்க முதல் அமைச்சரிடமே இருப்பதாலும், இப்பொழுதாவது மந்திரி சபையின் எண்ணிக்கையை குறைக்கும் யோசனை ஆலோசனைக்கு எடுத்துக் கொள்ளப்படுமா என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The question of the strength of the Cabinet must be left to the person who is responsible for the Government, namely, the Chief Minister. I do not think, Sir, I can discuss the merits of the members of the Cabinet or the strength of the Cabinet here."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, what are the reasons that induced the Government to shift the responsibility from the Prohibition department to the Police department? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" I am afraid that if this question is answered we will be going away from the main question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, consequent on the merger of the Prohibition department with the Police department in the matter of the enforcement of Prohibition, will the Government

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come forward to state categorically whether there will be any retrenchment in the staff of the Prohibition department, much less in the Ministry? ''

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I think that it does not contribute to clear thinking, if we keep the Ministry and the executive staff continually mixed up in these questions. So far as the Ministry is concerned, I have answered that it must be left to my best judgment. So far as the department is concerned, the question is which department can deal better with crime of one kind or another. The question of retrenchment should not be allowed to be mixed up with the question of good administration. That is a different and difficult problem. We cannot maintain the departments for the sake of maintaining the staff. We must maintain the staff for the sake of the departments.''

SRI C. KANDASAMY :—" இந்த நிலைமையின் காரணமாக மந்திரி சபையில் ஏதாவது பிரிவினை நடைபெறுமா என்பதைத் தெரிந்துகொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன்."

11-10 a.m. THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" கனம் அங்கத்தினர் அவர்கள் விளக்கமாகச் சொல்லவேண்டும்."

SRI C. KANDASAMY :—" இந்த இரண்டு டிபார்ட்மெண்டுகள் சேருவதன் மூலமாக மந்திரிகளுக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் இலாக்காக்களில் திரும்பவும் மாறுதல் செய்யப்படுமா ? ''

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I would like to explain the position, Sir. Hon. Members should, whether they agree or not, take my opinion about it in this respect. It would be useful for further consideration if they take it that way. The question of administering Prohibition is a matter of crime and administrative work. The question of Ministerial responsibility is a matter of policy with regard to total abstinence and total Prohibition. When once an act is declared to be a crime, the responsibility in that regard is better undertaken by the Police than by others.''

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" In view of the fact that the Hon. the Chief Minister is in charge of Police, are we to understand that hereafter he will be in charge of Prohibition also? ''

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Again Sir, I say that the Chief Minister has made it quite clear that the question of the policy with reference to what Ministers have to tell or do or speak is different from actually getting hold of criminals and things like that. The Police portfolio is not entirely with me. The Police portfolio is between two Ministers, namely, the Law Minister and myself. The Home Department is conducted by the Law Minister as well as me. The Police administration is something different. I do not think I can make it clearer than what I have already tried to do, namely, that the question of carrying out the policy of Prohibition by administration of the Department of Crime is different from who should handle the question in the Cabinet. These two things need not be mixed up.''

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SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. the Chief Minister, I am led to believe that there will be some retrenchment in the staff of the Prohibition department in the interest of the efficient working of the Prohibition policy. Will the Hon. the Chief Minister come forward to assure the House that such of those as are retrenched from the department for lack of efficiency on their part to work the policy will be re-absorbed in some other departments and that this will not result in total unemployment? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member is straying away from the main question. But if the Hon. the Chief Minister is prepared to answer the question, I have no objection."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I am prepared to say this much that wherever any change takes place and wherever any economization or reorganization takes place, there is a by-product arising out of it, namely, how to provide for those who have been suddenly retrenched. The Government have always kept this in view and have been trying to do their best."

Congestion of traffic in the City Transport.

* 2 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to relieve the congestion of traffic in the Government City Transport in Madras?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) Steps taken immediately on the cessation of the tramway service—

(1) Increase in the number of buses on the road by 40 units, by withdrawing vehicles from mufassal routes over which private services were also operating, and by temporary reduction in the number of vehicles normally withdrawn for periodical servicing.

(2) Addition of 14 Civil Supplies lorries converted for use as lorry-buses.

(3) Retention in service of the old buses which should have been replaced by 43 new buses added to the fleet in the course of the current year. These continue in service even to-day.

(*b*) Immediately after it was definitely known that the tramway service will not be resumed—

(1) Accord of sanction for the purchase of 50 heavy diesel vehicles, each of which could carry 60—70 passengers. These new vehicles will be available in the next financial year.

(2) Replacement, now in progress, of 50 over-aged petrol engines, by diesel engines, to make the older vehicles continue to be serviceable without breakdowns.